



Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 342
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton, Kansas 67114
Church: 316-283-3310
www.stmatthewsnewton.org
www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton

The Messenger



2
0
2
3

From the Interim Pastor—Fr. Richard Osborne

When we lived in Winfield, Kansas there was a concert every Friday night, during the summer months. It was put on by local musicians at the now closed St. John's College campus. People would bring their lawn chairs and blankets and something to drink. It was a well-attended community event.

One Friday evening at the concert one of our neighbors and her little granddaughter were enjoying it together. The child was completely captivated by this, her first orchestra concert. She sat transfixed through each number, and then, forgetful of her surroundings, she moved a bit closer each time the music stopped. With Grandma following each time she moved, at last she was as close as she could get. She stood within three feet of the first violinist, lost in the sights and sounds of the many instruments.

The concert ended, and for a brief, anxious moment the child realized how far she'd wandered. Then she turned to see her grandmother standing behind her. With a smile of relief, she cried, ***"Oh, I knew that I could depend on you Grandma!"***

It's good to be sought after when we stray. It's great to be cared for when we forget. How fortunate we are that the Good Shepherd follows us more faithfully than we follow him. Like sheep, we nibble ourselves lost, wandering in trivia and minor distractions. Or, we run our panic-stricken ways into the wilderness because faith fails us and our fears take over.

God never leaves us alone, not even for a moment. He never allows us to lose ourselves, no matter how hard we try. Even when we feel most isolated, we are never forsaken. God's silences don't signal abandonment. He is always with us.

It isn't flattering to be likened to sheep; the one thing they do well is bleat. But their bleating, as simple as it is, is their call for help. It's humbling to cry out our dependence, but it is wonderful to be able to say.

"Father, I knew I could depend on you!"



I've seen the lightning flashing
And heard the thunder roll,
I've felt sin's breakers dashing,
which tried to conquer my soul;
I've heard the voice of my Savior,
He bid me still fight on:
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

The world's fierce winds are blowing —
Temptation's sharp and keen;
I have a peace in knowing
My Savior stands between;
He stands to shield me from danger
When all my friends are gone:
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

From the hymn "Never Alone" - Ludie Carrington Day Pickett (1867-1953)



St. Matthew's Vision Statement

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is living into God's vision for us as a beloved community and disciples of Christ. We are always growing in relationship with God, embracing our neighborhood and our world, and leading through acts of service as a beacon of God's justice and love.

A committee that was charged to come up with a Mission Statement for St. Matthew's presented the following to St. Matthew's Vestry and it was approved. Thanks for all the work in putting St. Matthew's Mission into words.

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Matthew's is to Welcome, Respect and Care for All People. We accomplish this by following Christ, the perfect example of God's reconciling love, as we promote justice, peace and healing for ourselves and our world.

St. Matthew's office hours:

- Monday-Wednesday 10:00 am-3:00 pm
- Thursday 10:00 am-Noon
- Friday 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Fr. Richard is in the office 10:00 am-2:00 pm Monday and Tuesday.

Services: Holy Eucharist 10:15 am every Sunday
Evening Prayer 6:30 pm every Wednesday

The St. Matthew's Vestry's October meeting will be after church on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

The Vestry Meeting minutes will be posted on the Vestry bulletin board in the hallway.

PEF will meet after church on Sunday, October 22



Birthdays, Baptisms, and Confirmations

Remember to pray for each of these persons on their special day

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

October Birthdays

- October 8 - Christi Southern
- October 10 - Jed Lockaby, Zoe Stonehouse
- October 12—Joan Breit
- October 13 - Mike Loyd
- October 15 - Jordan Loyd
- October 16 - Michael Southern
- October 18 - Jim Reese
- October 26 - Brooke Glover
- October 25 - Katie Reese
- October 28 - Jake Collier, Austin Penner
- October 29 - Chris Simmonds, Donna Mills, Maggie Snow
- October 30 - Twila Lockaby

October Baptisms

- October 3 - Melissa Keenan, Jessica Keenan
- October 5 - Erik Jantz
- October 20 - Zoe Stonehouse
- October 21 - Sissy Robb
- October 22 - Andrew Craig

October Confirmations

- October 1 - Jill Loyd
- October 2 - Jerry Wall
- October 19 - Darlene Hall, Dave Simmonds, Chris Simmonds, Ryan Simmonds, Mary Werner
- October 26 - Cathy Woodward



Blessing of the Animals

Please join us on
Saturday, October 7, 2023
2:00—4:00 pm

St. Matthew's Church
at the Church Gazebo
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton, Kansas

*Help us celebrate the Feast of
St. Francis of Assisi
With a Blessing of the Animals*

All are welcome!

Bring your pets on a leash or in a carrier

Genesis 1:24—And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.





Social Media Engagement for September 2023

Facebook	
Reach	225 People
Engagement	148 Unique Engagements
New Followers	5 New Followers
Top Post on Facebook – Livestream on St. Matthew's Day	
Post Impressions	181
Post Reach	176
Engagement with the Post	84 People
Reactions	14 Likes, 4 Loves
YouTube Views This Month	
Views	1
Unique Views	0



With great pleasure, I want to announce that we are going to have special speakers at St Matthew's on November 12th after the coffee hour. Both are authors and fly fishermen from Colorado and the South Platte River System.

Go on a spiritual journey with Anthony Surage and Mike Aleckson as they explore the spirituality of their lives and particularly regarding fly fishing in God's creation. For them standing in a river during a trio mayfly hatch, casting to rising trout on the South Platte River can be a reverent spiritual experience beyond compare. Anthony has been a fly-fishing guide for over the past 35 years and retired as a teacher and school counselor for 31 years. Mike is a computer programmer and has been an avid fly fisherman and outdoorsman his entire life. These two gentlemen have also recently written a book called "Life and Death in the Middle: Reflections from the Seam Line" that captures many of their adventures.

Rick Glover

*Service for
All Saints Day
Wednesday
November 1, 2023
6:30 pm
St. Matthew's
Covey Chapel*



All Saints' Day is as a Principal Feast of the Church, "taking precedence over any other day or observance" (BCP, 15). The day is set aside to remember and commend the saints of God, especially those who are not recognized at other points in the church year.

According to Holy Women, Holy Men, in the tenth century, it became customary to recognize on a single day "that vast body of the faithful who, though no less members of the company of the redeemed, are unknown in the wider fellowship of the Church" (*Holy Women, Holy Men*, 664). Over time, the day became associated with special remembrances of an individual's family and friends.



Railway Clubhouse members have selected a logo to announce and promote their program and our new location.

A brief vestry meeting was held September

24 following worship to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Breakthrough/ESS, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and St. Matthew's Permanent Endowment Fund to allow Railway Clubhouse to move into the St. Matthew's rectory at 1016 Grandview.. The motion carried. In consultation with the PEF chair, Railway Clubhouse will begin moving items into the house the last week of September and carpet cleaning service scheduled.



Pizza lunch celebrating the unloading of a truckload of tables, supplies and equipment to our new location.

On September 29, the Alleluia Grant Review Committee of the Diocese informed us that St. Matthew's grant application for support to Railway Clubhouse has been approved and selected as one of our Awardees in the amount of \$3,000.00.

The presentation and distribution of all grant awards at our Annual Diocesan Convention will take place Friday evening, October 20th during the Banquet.

September 2023 Coffee Hour Hosts

- October 1 - Jeremy and Elisabeth Kitto
- October 8 - Mary Anne & Scott McCloud
- October 12 - Sarah and Chris Teichler
- October 22 - Rick, Rochelle & Brooke Glover
- October 29 - Melissa Keenan



It is fun to host coffee hour! Bring your favorite dish or dessert. Keep it simple—just bring cookies or crackers....we don't expect anyone to break the bank!! Buddy up with a friend or a committee could even host. Any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to ask Melissa.

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

30 non-perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in September. The food cart is usually located in the parish hall on Sundays. It is also possible to leave food donations in the office during the week. Thanks to all for remembering those who don't have enough to eat.

New Hope Shelter

As everyone is aware, we had collected personal items to donate to the shelter throughout the month of September. 71 personal care items were delivered on the 2nd of October. Thanks to everyone for making this outreach possible!! We are fortunate to do God's work. Thanks be to God!!

ADDRESSES

We are needing updated addresses for college kids, soldiers, and shut ins. There are still a few we do not have. We would love to send them cards!!! (*this is separate from the card group that meets at church). Also, if you have a loved one, that doesn't come to church anymore, and would love to add them to our shut in board, please contact Melissa. An address and picture would be great!!

Future Outreach Events

- Nov - Harvest of Love
- Dec - Adopt A Family Mitten Tree

Don't forget to all add to the St. Matthew's Food Pantry out at the entrance to the parking lot.



House of Bishops adopts statement on accountability

September 25, 2023
Office of Public Affairs

STATEMENT ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF BISHOPS FROM THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH | SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

We, the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church, meeting online September 19-22, 2023, wish to express our heartfelt prayers, well-wishes, and love to the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, and his family. We fervently pray for his continued healing and restoration to health and wholeness.

Our time together in candid conversation and in fervent prayer has reminded us of how profoundly the love of God in Jesus knits the whole Church together as the Body of Christ, empowers us for service to God's mission, and calls us to accountability one to another. We acknowledge the disappointment, pain, and grief felt across The Episcopal Church, and in any diocese, regarding the issue of moral, ecclesiastical, and pastoral accountability for bishops. The pain is absolutely real and urgent, both in the dioceses specifically affected by recent cases, and in cases where the recent complaints have recalled prior traumas elsewhere.

Jesus said how we relate to those who are most vulnerable is how we relate to him (Matt. 19:14, 25:40). As disciples of Jesus and servants of the people of God, we acknowledge the imperative to exercise our responsibility as bishops justly, faithfully, and after the example of our Savior. Each of us in this House has taken a vow to defend those who have no helper.

In the spirit of accountability and seeking to move closer to Beloved Community, we fully support the calling of the Reverend Barbara Kempf as the Title IV Intake Officer for Bishops. We also acknowledge and affirm the involvement of bishops, clergy, and laity in the disciplinary process for bishops. We are thankful that the Presiding Bishop has called on the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons to review the Title IV disciplinary process, listen to the concerns and hopes of the church, identify what has worked and what needs improvement, and make recommendations to the next General Convention.

We understand that when any bishop breaks the trust placed in us by the church, the Body of Christ suffers. We are called to be wholesome examples to the flock and proclaimers of the Good News of Christ to all the world.

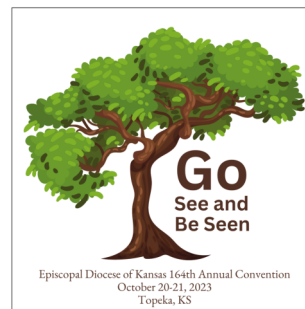
Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God, we commit to each other and to the whole Church that we will do our part in the work necessary to bring about the authentic changes our church needs "to walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God."

A COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH

The way of love in community always calls us to establish holy boundaries and commit to mutual accountability. To this end, we, the bishops of The Episcopal Church, pledge to continue the long-term work of accountability. We understand this work involves canonical, cultural, and relational dimensions.

We pledge to work with each other, with the House of Deputies, and with leaders across the church to protect the vulnerable, respecting the dignity of every human being.

We pledge to hold each other accountable to standards of conduct set by our ordination vows and the Baptismal Covenant, striving, with God's help, to exercise the responsibilities of servant leadership modeled by Jesus.



The 164th Diocesan Convention will gather Friday, October 20 through Saturday, October 21 at Grace Cathedral (701 SW 8th Ave, Topeka, KS). The registration table will open at noon on Friday, October 20 with business starting at 1pm in the Nave.

Convention business, Eucharist, and celebration will reflect this year's theme *Go: See and Be Seen*. In addition to normal business (elections, mission plan, constitution and canonical amendments, etc.) the convention will hear and reflect on Council of Trustees presentations of its ongoing strategic planning work.

This year's convention will also see the return of our ninth bishop, Dean E. Wolfe, his first official visit since Bishop Bascom's consecration. Bishop and Ellen Wolfe will join convention business, Eucharist, and celebration on Friday. Delegates, alternates, clergy and ex officio members of convention should keep an eye out for the Convention Book which is being sent by snail mail this week. It will also be available on this convention website by September 1, 2023.



St. Matthew's Prayer Chain

If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, please contact

Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**. The information you share with me will then be passed on to the chain leaders who will then pass the information on to their team. The members of the chain will then add your request to their prayers. The information you give me is confidential and will not be shared with others outside the prayer chain without your permission.

If you have a prayer request, would like more information and/or join the St. Matthew's Prayer Chain, please contact Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**.



LET'S FILL UP THE ST. MATT'S FOOD PANTRY.



The pantry is outside, at the entrance to the parking lot. Some suggested items: cereal, canned goods, jelly, mac and cheese, boxed meals, spaghetti, easy muffin mixes, etc. Please consider the weather when leaving your items. Thanks for helping our neighbors.

Episcopalians Writers Invited to Exhibit Writing at Diocesan Convention

Exhibitors and Vendors are returning to Diocesan Convention in 2023. One of the tables this year will feature Episcopalians Writers. Published writers of the diocese are invited to bring their work for display and sale at the exhibit. Writing of all genres and styles is welcome, whether the work is poetry, children's literature, fiction, non-fiction, theology, spirituality, curriculum, ministry resources, etc. Contact [Chad Senuta](#) for more details.



Altar Guild



Altar Guild Team for October

Chris Simmonds, Margie Knupp, Katie Reese, Elizabeth Hill

October Altar Flowers

October 1

David and Chris Simmonds
"For Blessing Received"

October 8

Diane and Al Joseph
"In Loving Memory of Dick and JoAnne Oliver"

October 15

Maggie & Chris Snow
"In celebration of our wedding anniversary"

October 22

Mary Upton
"In thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Jim Upton"

October 29

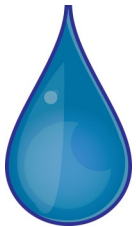
Thea Ferguson
"In loving memory of Jay Ferguson"

The vacant dates for Altar Flowers have been filled at this time. Thank you to everyone that responded.



LOVE THE LORD
YOUR GOD WITH
ALL YOUR heart
& WITH ALL YOUR soul
AND WITH ALL YOUR
Mind.

MATTHEW 22:37



WATER — Water flows through the Scriptures: the Flood, the Red Sea crossing, water springing from a rock to nourish Israelites in the wilderness, the healing of Naaman's leprosy when he washed in the Jordan River, John baptizing Jesus and, chiefly, our baptism into Christ. The water of baptism symbolizes cleansing from sin, the quenching of our spiritual thirst and God raising us from death (drowning in sin) to life everlasting. Just as we cannot live without physical water, neither can we truly live without the living water Jesus gives (see John 4:13-14).



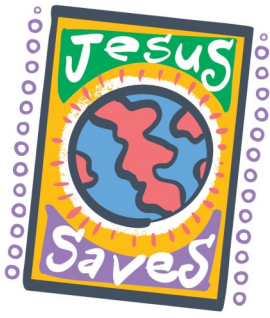
The Card Ministry group will be meeting on **Monday, October 9** at 1:00 pm at the church. Please join us! All you need to bring is yourself, as all the materials will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Card
Ministry

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Not long before Jesus' arrest, he said: "I did not come to ____ the world, but to ____ the world." Fill in the blanks.

A. judge; save
B. hate; love
C. condemn; teach
D. disrupt; conform to



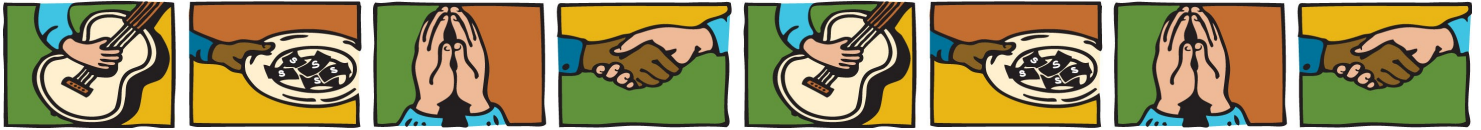
Answer: A (See John 12:47, NIV.)

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!



Its that time of year to think about making your estimate of giving for 2024. The Vestry will be getting the Stewardship Team together. Is this an area that you would like to be involved with and help during the Stewardship Campaign? Let Maggie Snow, Sr. Warden, know.

Your stewardship helps St. Matthew's Church to keep the lights on, pay the bills, make necessary improvements and have the ability to help those in need. Thanks for all you do for St. Matthew's. Not only does your giving matter but also your involvement here at St. Matthew's.



Here is the worship schedule for October Please let the office know if you would like to sign up to read, usher and/or count. We can always use more hands! ***If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please find a substitute.*** Thanks for your service!

	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
Season	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	19th Sunday after Pentecost	20th Sunday after Pentecost	21st Sunday after Pentecost	22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Communion in the absence of a Priest (ComAP)	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Deacon Barbara Gibson Mary Anne McCloud	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne
Lectors	Mary Upton	Jeremy Kitto	Bonnie Jones	Elizabeth Hill	Fred Schroeder
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Fred Schroeder	Margie Knupp	Mary Upton	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	David Simmonds	Twila Lockaby	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder
Ushers (2)	Melissa Keenan	Elizabeth Hill	Bonnie Jones	Mary Werner	Rick Glover
	Mary Upton	Bonnie Jones	Mary Upton	Elizabeth Hill	Melissa Keenan
Hosts	Jeremy and Elisabeth Kitto	Mary Anne & Scott McCloud	Sarah and Chris Teichler	Rick, Rochelle & Brooke Glover	Melissa Keenan
Altar Flowers	David and Chris Simmonds <i>"For Blessing Received"</i>	Diane and Al Joseph <i>"In Loving Memory of Dick and JoAnne Oliver"</i>	Maggie & Chris Snow <i>"In celebration of our wedding anniversary"</i>	Mary Upton <i>"In thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Jim Upton"</i>	Thea Ferguson <i>"In loving memory of Jay Ferguson"</i>
Acolyte & LEM	Fred Schroeder	Karen Wall		Maggie Snow	Fred Schroeder
Organist	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelli Glann	Kelli Glann

Would you like to serve as Usher, Counter or Lector? Or serve the church in some other way? Contact the Office!